

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 13, 25, 27, 30 and 31 have been rejected as being anticipated by Kaneko, U.S. Patent No. 5,212,853 ("Kaneko"); and claims 7, 9-12, 14, 15 and 29 have been rejected as being obvious over Kaneko. Claims 16-24, 26, 28 and 38-40 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

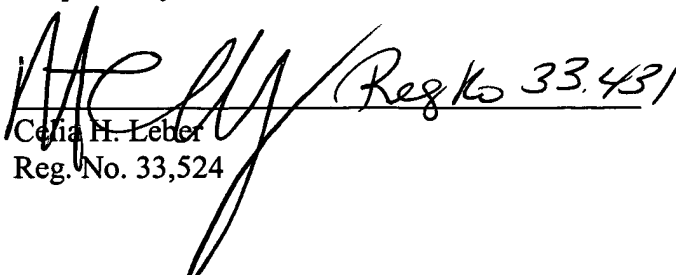
Without conceding that the rejections are proper, Applicants are canceling claims 1-31; amending claim 38 to include the limitations of claim 1; and adding new independent claims 41, 46, 51 and 62, which correspond to claims 16, 17, 18 and 22, respectively, rewritten in independent form. All new dependent claims are fully supported by the originally filed claims and/or the Specification.

An IDS was submitted April 7, 2006 to make of record references recently cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Applicants submit that all pending claims are patentable over the cited references. Applicants request that the references be considered, and then the initialed form 1449 be returned to the Applicants, along with a Notice of Allowance.

Enclosed is a \$400.00 check for excess claims fees. It is not believed that any other fees are due, but please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 05918-324001.

Respectfully submitted,

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